HAILEY'S ON IT!
"Suddenly, Sanjay" (22 minutes)
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EXT. UNDER THE PIER - DAY

We OPEN ON HAILEY, SCOTT, and BETA, doing beach clean-up under the Oceanside Pier. Scott scoops up a bunch of U.F.Dough trash as Beta gives Hailey an earful for putting such a grueling item on her list. But Hailey cuts him off when she gets a call from SANJAY, who says he has a free afternoon after finishing his triathlon in record time. He's thinking of setting up a romantic picnic on the bluffs if she's free? Dropping all the trash in her hands, Hailey says she's totally free! Hailey hangs up and tells Scott and Beta she's gotta go get cleaned up -- they can complete this list item another time. But Beta is outraged; this is the third time she's postponed this one! Hailey brushes him off with, "What's one more time then?!"

Hailey then turns to leave, but almost walks into a TIME GLITCH! It shows the fiery future, but instead of quickly disappearing as usual, it swirls into itself, becoming a small, oozing, neon-yellow GLOB that sticks to a pillar under the pier! All three are stunned -- that's never happened before! They cautiously inspect it. Beta tries to scan it, but he starts glitching immediately. He says the glob's time signature is all over the map. His screen becomes a mess of historical and futuristic photos and sounds. He can't get a read on what, where, or when this stuff is from! Whatever it is, Beta does not trust this Time Gunk. Scott turns to him: "Time Gunk?! Time Slime is RIGHT in front of you and you go with Time Gunk??" Hailey wonders why this is happening. That's when Beta and Scott have a heartfelt intervention with Hailey. Beta says it's probably because she's falling way behind on list items to hang out with Sanjay! Scott agrees that she can't keep splitting her time like this; something's gotta give. This earnest moment lands on Hailey. She knows what she has to do: she's gonna go talk to Sanjay, and take care of it.

INT. HAILEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Scott and Beta wait for Hailey to get back, pleased with how well the intervention went. They're proud of Hailey for making the mature decision to prioritize the list and get back on track. The three musketeers are BACK, baby! That's when Hailey enters and happily tells them that she talked to Sanjay and dealt with it...by ***telling him everything***! The List, the Professor, the portals, Beta...everything!

Sanjay walks in as Hailey thanks Beta and Scott for helping her do this. They were right; she was being torn between the list and Sanjay but now she can spend time with both! It's a win-win! Scott and Beta's faces show they do not feel like it's a win-win. Hailey carefully shows Sanjay her notebook. She gives him a meaningful look and tells him, "Only the people in this room know the truth. You are the first new person I've told." Hailey is vulnerable with Sanjay in a way she hasn't been before. But Sanjay just responds: "Cool... thanks." He then awkwardly backs out of the room, saying he's got a thing to get to, but he'll catch up with them later. Hailey's disappointed by his reaction.

But Scott and Beta confront Hailey about this massive decision she's made: "why would you do that?!" But Hailey is lost in thought, and says: "Do you think Sanjay's response was kinda weak?" Scott and Beta keep questioning her choice, but Hailey is hyper focused on Sanjay's "cool...thanks" response. That's the most open she's ever been; she really put herself out there! Beta pipes up, "You put ***all*** of us out there!" Hailey eventually has the idea to redeem herself by including Sanjay with her next list item. Then she'll make him reveal something equally vulnerable to balance the emotional scales. This will be great! Hailey asks Beta for a list item that Sanjay would be into, maybe something to do with botany since that's how they first met. Beta reluctantly pulls up, "Watch the Bloom of the Rare and Majestic Corpse Flower." Hailey pumps her fist and runs off to tell Sanjay, while Beta and Scott exchange a worried look.

INT. BOTANICAL GARDEN GREENHOUSE - EVENING

Scott and Beta hang behind as Hailey walks Sanjay through the botanical garden. She's telling Sanjay how her list works: "Beta calculates the most optimal list item, we do it, this wristband turns green, and then we check it off my list!" Sanjay nods, but he's obviously not really listening. He looks distracted and rambles about the structural integrity of the botanical garden's greenhouse. Hailey is frustrated. She's getting nowhere with Sanjay opening up, so she decides to move on and tell him about the Corpse Flower project. Her Environmental Club at school gets special access to stay with the Corpse Flower -- even after the garden closes -- to witness its bloom. Since no one can predict the exact timing of the bloom, that means she and Sanjay can spend lots of time sharing long, intimate conversations where they really ***open up***. Hailey is laying it on thick: "Why don't you go first?" Sanjay gets flustered, saying: "Um, nothing is coming to mind." Then he awkwardly backs out of the garden, telling her he's gotta go deal with something right away. As he sprints off, Hailey looks even more concerned.

After watching all this go down, Scott whispers to Beta that his Scotty-sense is tingling -- something is off. This guy is acting ***hecka suss***! Beta wonders if they know Sanjay well enough to be letting him in on their world-saving secret? Scott decides he needs to know more about Sanjay and knows just the person to talk to...

CUT TO:

INT. BECKER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Becker is falsifying hall passes with a jeweler's loupe, tweezing the school insignia off of footballs and placing them on the passes. Perfection! That's when Scott bursts in and says he needs her help -- they need to find out everything they can on Sanjay Singh. It's a case for... Denoga and Denoga! He refers to a photo of Young Scott and Young Becker dressed in P.I. costumes in a schoolyard. But to his surprise, Becker says she got out of the P.I. biz for a reason and she ain't going back into time-out. Scott begs her for this favor, saying he will owe her. Becker likes the sound of that, warming to the idea: "Alright, one last job."

I/E. - PARK/SCHOOL/BEACH - COP SHOW MONTAGE - NEXT DAY

CUE their 70's style <THEME SONG> as "Denoga & Denoga" flashes on screen. Becker and Scott are in 70's detective get-ups. Each montage moment has aggressive push-zooms and lots of looks direct to camera:

--Scott and Becker run and slide across the hood of two parallel parked cars, then high five.

--They open their backpacks: Becker has a skateboard, Scott has fireworks. They chuckle and switch packs.

--They're chasing a PERP down the street, past a lemonade stand. They run back to the stand and throw back two cupfuls before resuming the chase.

--They skid stop their bikes and look at camera, thumbs up.

--They ogle something O.S. by tipping down their sunglasses and elbowing each other. We REVEAL it's a hand-pie cart.

--The jump off a ramp on a golf cart and freeze frame midair.

--Scott parkours up a fire escape, in hot pursuit. But he's just trying to catch a helium balloon that's floated away. He catches it, and Becker nods.

--They hide in a bush holding binoculars, but Scott has his backwards. Becker switches them around for him.

--They go into the “boss’ office” at school to see their fed-up boss (KENNEDY). She slams the table trying to knock some sense into them. They roll their eyes and shrug, direct to camera.

“Denoga & Denoga” appears on screen again.

END STYLIZED MONTAGE

EXT. PARK - DAY

Becker and Scott are on a stake out, sitting in a U.F.Dough delivery golf cart and eating pistachios. Through binoculars, they watch Sanjay sit on a bench. Becker nondescriptly attached a “bug” to Sanjay, but so far there’s been nothing to see or hear. Totally anticlimactic. Scott whines that it’s been hours and nothing has happened. Becker opens her laptop and searches the internet for “Sanjay Singh.” Turns out this Sanjay doesn’t have much of an online presence, but she did find an old photo from botany camp. Scott looks at the picture of a stout little Sanjay with Coke-bottle glasses and asks, “What does that have to do with our investigation?” Becker chuckles at the photo and says, “Nothing, it’s just funny to see him looking like a total nerd.”

That’s when they see Sanjay take a phone call. It’s from Hailey, and he lies to her about where he is! As he hangs up, an unmarked van pulls up. Sanjay goes to it and looks around to make sure no one is watching. He opens the back of the van to reveal a collection of boxes, containing masks and smoke poppers! Sanjay tries a mask on to test the fit, then he yells to the driver: “Perfect. Bring them back at the scheduled time.” He smacks the van and it drives off. Becker says she doesn’t know exactly what this all means, but she can confirm it is hecka suss.

They follow Sanjay to another area of the park and see him approach a MYSTERIOUS PERSON. Sanjay‘s bug is breaking up and he’s hard to hear. Scott and Becker attempt to lip-read. Though they are confident in their skill, they are obviously way off. Sanjay hands over a thumb drive to the Mysterious Person, who puts it in their pocket. Denoga & Denoga are determined to see the contents of that drive! They decide it’s time to bring back their ol’ complex, highly intelligent scheme to get their hands on that evidence...

FLIP TO:

INT. CAFE - DAY

Scott, in a goofy, oaf-ish disguise, acting like a bumbling waiter, walks past the Mysterious Person from earlier and accidentally spills a giant glass of juice all over him. He starts to clean it up but then spills another drink on him. He keeps spilling drinks on the person while Becker sneaks up and slyly grabs the thumb drive from their bag. She turns a corner and quickly plugs it into her laptop. It start to upload...slowly...as Scott keeps spilling drinks to buy more time. Finally it finishes uploading. Becker sneaks the drive back into the bag as Scott is fired from a job he doesn't actually have. Scott: "That's okay. I was over being a waiter anyway." Becker waves Scott over and they hurry away. They did it!

EXT. U.F.DOUGH DELIVERY GOLF CART - DAY

While Scott drives, Becker pores over the contents of the thumb drive. It contains blueprints of the botanical garden, and a photo of the Corpse Flower. It also has information about how much the flower is worth. Scott and Becker <GASP> at the number!

INT. BOTANICAL GARDEN GREENHOUSE - DAY

Hailey is with Beta, still spinning out about Sanjay. She tells him that Sanjay's been distancing himself more and more ever since she got vulnerable and told him all about the List. She says she blew it: "I gave Sanjay the 'ick'". Beta says he doesn't want to know, but Hailey explains the "ick" is a sudden feeling of repulsion, an unforgivable point of no return in a relationship. She came on too strong and now he's "ick-ed" out! Beta comments that human emotions and slang get weirder every day. Just then, the Corpse Flower shows its first signs of blooming. Hailey perks up and starts calling other Environmental Club members, telling them to come to the garden ASAP!

EXT. U.F.DOUGH DELIVERY GOLF CART - DAY

Denoga and Denoga hurry back to the botanical garden. Becker has done more digging on this super valuable Corpse Flower. Turns out someone even tried to steal one in Maryland. Then Becker says: "And guess who was living in Maryland when this attempted crime took place? Sanjay!" Scott gasps: "Sanjay isn't a botany bro, he's a botany bandit!" Then their radio picks up transmission from Sanjay's bug -- they listen in as Sanjay gets a call from Hailey. Again, Sanjay lies about his whereabouts and then says, "The flower's blooming soon?

Oh cool, thanks." He hangs up then immediately makes another call, saying: "Change of plans, we have to do it now. Call the driver and meet me at the botanical garden." Becker floors the cart, taking a shortcut to try to beat Sanjay to the botanical garden.

INT. BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY

Hailey and the Environmental Club excitedly surround the Corpse Flower as it slowly continues to bloom. That's when Sanjay runs in, sweaty, trying to act casual but obviously nervous and anxious. Hailey is happy he made it! She says how worried she became when he was MIA all day, but now they get to watch this flower open up together. She tries one last time to get him to open up and share any vulnerable thoughts of his on this special occasion. But Sanjay just just checks his watch, then starts furiously texting someone. Hailey is bummed.

Suddenly, Denoga & Denoga burst on the scene, happy to see the slowly-blooming flower is still there. They immediately call for everyone's attention! That's when Scott makes his grand accusation of Sanjay: "He's been lying to you, Hailey. Sanjay has been using you this whole time...to steal the Corpse Flower!" Everyone is shocked. Becker adds: "AND he used to be a giant nerd!" Hailey wants to know where this is coming from and what proof they have. Becker shows the nerdy botany camp picture, which Hailey chuckles at, but it's hardly proof. Scott tells him about his lies, and about the Mysterious Person he met at the park, and gives her the other evidence from the thumb drive. As Hailey looks it over, she realizes Denoga & Denoga are right...Sanjay's earlier blasé reaction tracks. He was just trying to use her for access to the flower! Scott approaches Sanjay and demands: "Admit it, this whole relationship has been a sham! Unless you have some sort of perfect airtight reason why you would need an unmarked van, blueprints of the gardens, and a bunch of sketchy black masks?" Sanjay is totally deflated and sighs and says: "The truth is...I was planning a surprise for me and Hailey's two month-iversary. Without further ado-"

The back door opens, and an ensemble of INTERPRETIVE DANCERS wearing black masks spill out of the unmarked van. They begin an interpretive dance that acts out the timeline of Hailey and Sanjay's relationship. As Sanjay chants/sings: "I first met you at botany camp...camp...camp..."

As the dancers do a choreographed dramatization of the story, Sanjay tells how he was a small, nerdy boy determined to improve himself into a young man worthy of Hailey. He's been thinking of her and improving himself from afar, ever since the day they met. Sanjay continues his story, chanting that now they're together, he's happier than he's ever been.

Hailey's a dream come true for him. At that moment, Sanjay and the dancers hold their final pose, and he devotedly utters, "Now that our relationship is in ***full bloom***, Hailey, I want you to know: I love you." Hailey is stunned. Sanjay takes her hands, waiting for her response. But all Hailey can muster is a shocked: "Cool...thanks." That's when the Corpse Flower blooms, emitting a nauseating puff of gas. Everyone coughs and flees the area, as Hailey's wristband turns green. Beta mutters inside the backpack: "She's got the ick, and it ain't from the flower."

EXT. UNDER THE PIER - LATER

Hailey, Scott and Beta are back under the pier to finally complete the trash clean-up list item. Beta and Scott are happy it's just the three of them, even if this list item is still the worst! Hailey tells them she really does want to strive for more balance in her life. She doesn't need to spend every waking moment on her list, but she also doesn't need to spend it all with her boyfriend. Maybe everything was moving too fast with Sanjay after all.

Hailey bags up the last bit of trash and her wristband turns green again. Two list items in two days! All is well. She then looks to see even the Time Slime has disappeared, a clear sign she must be on the right path! The three walk off to take some much needed showers.

We linger on the pillar before tilting down to a storm drain, where we find the TIME SLIME is hiding! And now it's much larger, and seems to slip down the storm drain on its own. This can't be good.

FADE OUT